

## STATEMENT

Victim ☐ Witness ☒ Date 10-07-82 Time 2135 hrs

8	2
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Taken by OFFICER MCLAUCHLAN H./ GREEN R. Serial # 101690/08520

Statement of MELINDA MAY MILES Age 40

Alias \_\_\_\_\_

Address 5316 Johnson Pt Road, Olympia WA Zip 98506 Phone 456-5445

Date of Birth 04-16-42 at Olympia, WA

Occupation & Employer Self-employed house cleaner Bus. Phone 456-5445

DET: LINDA, you're familiar with the gentleman by the name of MELVIN FOSTER is that correct?

WIT: Yes.

DET: Could I have you speak up just a little bit.

WIT: Okay.

DET: Um, how did you come to know MR FOSTER? And could you explain the circumstances behind that?

WIT: Okay. My brother was renting a trailer for my parents and they were going to California so we were to show the trailer when my brother would return it. And ah....

DET: Where was that trailer located?

WIT: It was...at the time, next door to us. And it's still just ...not very far from us. Cause we still live on the same property.

DET: Okay.

WIT: And ah, he came ah...one evening to...to look at the trailer, to rent it and ah, I sent one of the boys down to open the trailer for him. And he came back up and told me he'd take the trailer and he handed me the money for the rental on the trailer and as he was there, ah..he introduced himself and was quite talkative about himself and his ah...mentioned he had a wife and two little kids, little boys. Ah he said that ah, he had

74-9255-6\_BAKER, BRENDA - Page 1519 of 1570

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

moved up here from Los Angeles because his wife was ah afraid to live down there anymore because there's been so many killings going on. And he said that ah...he had went in to the killings that had happened close to them and he....he used his arm lengths to determine h....you know, just making a phrase of ah, there'd been a girl killed next door to them and he says it just wasn't very far, you know, just...just a short distance like that. He said our houses are so close together.

DET: So you'd say about four, five, six feet apart is what he was saying?

WIT: I...that....I think, I guess, must have been.

DET: Well, could you just gesture.....?

WIT: Could be, you know yeah. He just made gesture of his arms about five feet spread that ah this girl was killed next door and ...and ah he said they...they didn't even hear anything going on, you know, and.....He said that ah, she had been strangled and ah beaten and raped. That...when they found her and ah from what he had made the gesture, that they never found her right away. It was a few days later. And.....

DET: Did he give any details about how she was strangled?

WIT: Nn..no. He just said strangled is all. And ah...my sister kept making glances at me like, you know, you know, why would he be telling us this kind of stuff when..you know, she...we didn't know him, you know. I mean we knew of him because he'd been in the neighborhood you know, school age. And ah he was telling us how he, you know, his parents lived across the bay and and ah...His ah...mom and dad had never had anything all their lives and that they'd bought this new car and boy they were right up town now, they had 'em a new car to...to drive

74-9255-6\_BAKER, BRENDA - Page 1520 of 1570

☐ Officer's Witness Statement☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of MELINDA MILES

and and ah...that was about all that night.

DET: What kind of a.....?

WIT: He elaborated on, you know, several killings, I should say, not just the one, but the one he did elaborate on ...on how she was killed.

DET: Several killings in the California area or elsewhere?

WIT: In...well no just in the...his area where he lived in Los Angeles he was talking about and this was his reason why he moved his wife up here is because.....

DET: What type of a vehicle was MR FOSTER driving at that time?

WIT: When he first moved in he had a pick up. I...I only remember seeing it one time. Ah...and a few...it just seemed like a few days later ah... came into the house again, I don't remember what for that time either, except for he just popped at the door and, usually....he never did knock. But usually he just...got scared to death when you opened the door cause here he's standing. I...I...to this day I don't never remember him knocking.

DET: Could you go ahead and describe that pick up that he had, as best as you can remember?

WIT: Well, at the time that...they had ah put it in the paper that they ah well it was like...the end of December that they found that girl up there

DET: What.....?

WIT: ...In...the DEVINE girl in the...in the camp ah...was it ah...a camp up there by Fed....er Capitol Forrest.

DET: Okay, just to clarify now, this was shortly after MR FOSTER moved into this trailer here? After you rented the trailer to MR FOSTER?

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

WIT: That's when I remember him having a pick up, when he moved in.

DET: Right.

WIT: Okay. A few days later, after he moved in, he had a car. He said he had got him a...a new car. See what I got, he said, I got a grease and bore and something and he was...telling us he got that car for real .... reasonable. And he was real proud of that car cause it was a...it was a...Chrysler Motors type car....It was Dodge, Chrysler or Plymouth .... in that line.

DET: What color was the car?

WIT: I think it was blue...not real real sure but....seems like it was a blue color.

DET: Okay. So ah, you were reading the paper about this DEVINE girl.....

WIT: So....Yeah.

DET: ....that had been killed?

WIT: A month later, when it came out in the paper, I think what..was it .... it was right around Christmas time sometime...it seemed like they found her...And ah they put it in the paper that ....the description of that pick up.... And I said, you know..ah...didn't that MELVIN FOSTER have a pick up like that one ...he first moved in? And the kids all said, yea they described the pick up, you know....better than I could even, becau they...they had seen it, you know, cause they were outside playing in different times....

DET: Okay, do you remember the color of the pick up?

WIT: It seems like it was tan....Now CURTIS thought it was a blue but to me it seemed like it was tan. A brown .....

DET: Okay, ah.....

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of MELINDA MILES

WIT: ...in color....

DET: ...were you able to determine approximately the year?

WIT: It was an older pick up.

DET: Older? Was it in good condition, bad condition?

WIT: Well, it was...it was just slightly dark when I seen it, just dusk...t where I could just barely tell the color and I just...and I...I don't. I think...I'm not sure...but...seems like it was a Ford. This is wher we differ, see...but wh...I know at the time that it came out in the paper that we all knew then....but this has been nine years...nine... your memory's ah....

DET: Sure...sure..

WIT: ...you know...

DET: Yeah, just do the best you can, that's all we're asking.

WIT: And...but ah...that jiggled in our minds and of course, you ....oh well that's coincidence, you know, so that passed over....

DET: Do you know what happened to the pick up truck?

WIT: No. I don't. I ...and...you know...he never said he sold it and he never said he...he never said what he did with the pick up.

DET: And you never asked him about the.....?

WIT: No. Huh uh. And ah cause I....I really didn't care about talking to him because he...he ....everytime we would talk to him he would start in to some stories that were really, you know....we didn't always talk about. And ah.....

DET: What kind of stories was he talking about?

WIT: Well alot of time, we couldn't make heads and tails what he was talking

Page 5  
of 14

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

about. But it...he would...he would talk about kids, young girls, ah runaways, the ones he would carry in his cabbie at night, you know, girls and that.....

DET: What did he say about those girls?

WIT: That ah, they should be at home and not out running around after dark. They should make a curfew for 'em...and this and that. And ah...he... my sister was there one time at the house, well s...twice. When I first met him and then another time and ah...She says, boy she...you know, she would watch those girls real close because she just wouldn't trust him. And ah...it was right after Christmas time, that the kids were all out in the yard and ah...I caught him eyeing the girls. And he was walking to the end of the trailer and ah...our, you know, our property sloped right into his trailer, it just all kinda run together, you know, it just it's kept,,,we kept the lawn up. And I caught him out there talking to the youngest girl, which was thirteen at the time and ah....I was in my bedroom and I could see all this going on and I went out the front door cause I just...I just didn't ah....Even though he said he had a wife, had never yet seen a woman in that trailer. And I hadn't seen no kids either.

DET: When you say eyeing him, what do you mean?

WIT: Well, that's what I hadn't seen. I hadn't...I mean...I hadn't seen a woman.

DET: I'm referring to when you said you saw him eyeing the girls.

WIT: Oh. Well....He was trying to talk to them. And I was...didn't..you know and I....and...Everytime I'd seen a man walk ah...you know.. talking to

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

the girls...I always protected my girls pretty much so...I mean I was ver.....I'm...I'm still very protective of them even though they're married and everything but...ah...He was...he was mainly walking toward the girls...I mean talking to the girls. And here there was all the boys in the yard, but yet he had his main concern on those girls. And that's when I decided that..you know..I didn't trust him, I wanted the girls ..you know..to stay away from him period. That was it. So I called the girls in the house and I told 'em, I says, don't never let...let him um..talk to you again. Stay away from him because...I don't feel like he's quite right. I just don't feel right by him. And ah..so then it went on... and...

DET:

Did you tell anybody at the time about when they found this DEVINE girl up here in Olympia? Did you tell anybody at that time about the similarity between MR FOSTER's truck and the one that was in the paper?

WIT:

No. We just..you know..we just figured it was coincidence at the time. And because..the kids even mentioned, you know, well that guy had a truck like that..you know..just mentioning that you know, uh that..that guy down there in the trailer had a truck like that. And it's gone now. I says well maybe he borrowed that truck or something. And I says, cause he got him a car just a few days after that. So anyhow it went through, it seemed like everytime we'd get...during Christmas time and..and New Year's time and..seemed like everytime we'd go to the door after we had discussed..fifteen minutes, maybe sometimes a half an hour earlier that we was gonna go to town, we'd open the front door and there he'd be standing...Says, oh I'll ride to town with you. And he..how would he know where we were going. If he hadn't a been standing there at

Page 7  
of 14

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

8 2 - 1 6 2 3 9 8

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

that door at least fifteen minutes to a half an hour earlier..cause we had eight kids round up, put coats on, and get together and, you know, we went...at the time we had a baby, a small baby, which was the little guy in there. And ah he had to have been there at least fifteen, twenty minutes. Just standing by that door listening to what was going on. Ar this went...this was many times. And of course we'd take him to town or or to ...over to his folks, lots of times you know. Because his car .. I couldn't remember if he was out of gas or it wouldn't start or...one time it was in the shop, it was different times there was something wrong with the car. And ah it seems like the last time that he rode in the car he mentioned that his wife..he was going to have to commit his wife to an institution. And ah to this day..or to that..to that day we still hasn't seen no wife. Or I had no...I had seen a woman and I don't if it was his wife or not. I seen a woman in ah...get into the car and all I seen was her side view of her face and she had shorter black hair about, you know, middle or neck. And ah that's all I ever seen. I never did see any of the kids. Now CURTIS said he did. I..I never did. And was home all day long cause I didn't work. And I never did see a woman come in or go out of that trailer during the daytime, by herself or no little kids go play or anything. But um he would rattle on about different things in the news at the time. I don't remember what he'd rattle on.. All I know is that none of it made sense. Cause he would talk about one thing for just a little bit and then pretty soon he'd be off on something else, you didn't even know what he was talking about. He'd just, you know. His conversation was never consistent. It was just jumping and jumping

Page

8

of

14



☐ Officer's Witness Statement☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

and jumping. And then ah he was gone alot at night. Seems like..It seems like he was gone alot, all the time. He was never hardly in the trailer. And ah..he ah..So we moved back in this area in March and ah we came home and brought a load of antiques out and was we were getting ready to go.. and I can't remember if it was on our way to California, but it seems like we was going on our way to California cause my cousin was in with us and we had to have been. But we were on the Plum Street entrance to the freeway and he was in front of us and he pulled over and he was picking up a hitchhiker. And she was a hippie typed girl, you know, and she had blonde hair. And he was picking her up and she had several bags, you know, sleeping bag, looked like, and..and ah tote bag of some sort, you know. And I just sorta leaned out the window, looked over out the truck window and looked down at him and he just...he ..he waved.. he waved at us. Even though he was picking up that girl. And I thought, well, you know, maybe noth..nothings goin' on. But I says, why would he be picking her up when he lives here in town and she's bagging baggage to go out of town. And you know, and that's when I really started getting curious.

DET: How old was this girl? Was she....?

WIT: Oh about twenty-one, twenty-two...

DET: And...

WIT: ...somewhere in there, twenty-three..

DET: ...do you remember what vehicle MR FOSTER was driving when he was picking up that girl?

WIT: It was a Chrysler Motors car.

DET: It was his car....

WIT: I don't know if it was his car.

☐ Officer's Witness Statement☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

8 2 - 1 6 2 3 9 8

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

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DET: How old was this girl? Was she....?

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Page 9  
of 14

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

8 2 - 1 6 2 3 9 8

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of MELINDA MILES

DET: ...that he had had at the time, the one that you had seen?

WIT: No it was a different one. It was a different than the one he had when we left here. But it was still in the Chrysler line. Dodge...

DET: What color was this car, do you remember?

WIT: No because I hadn't seen it before hand and it was dark, late at night. And ah I knew..and..I mean I ..you know..I couldn't tell you exactly what color it was. Because he had ah...from some point we had seen him I don't know which one it was but on..I'm..I know that either we stopped at a stop sign..light beforehand or whatever but I..I knew that was his car ahead of us. And then when I said, you know, I'm gonna take a good look, and I reached over her lap, my cousin was sitting in the truck, and I looked down, well he knew us because, you know..he knew our truck cause he, you know..he'd seen the thing for months and months and months beforehand. And before we even went to Missouri he's seen it for a long time. So he'd know it was us. So he, you know, he waved at us. And here he this girl was picking up her bags and stuff and ...

DET: Was it common to...

WIT: ...gettin' ready to get in the car.

DET: ...see him in different types of vehicles other than his car? Had you ever seen him in...

WIT: Mm hm..

DET: ...pick up trucks...?

WIT: Oh, well...

DET: ..or other type of cars or anything else?

WIT: Just that pick up, once. But he did drive different cars. Several

74-9255-6\_BAKER, BRENDA - Page 1529 of 1570

Page 10  
of 14

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

8 2 - 1 6 2 3 9 8

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of

MELINDA MILES

different other cars.

DET: Can you describe any of those cars?

WIT: No. Cause I always thought he'd borrowed ...

DET: Have you ever seen....?

WIT: ...you know, he'd borrowed somebody's car. But he never did have his parents' car. Cause he always said, you know, he always elaborated on how..Oh my parents waited so long to get 'em a nice car and boy they got 'em a real fancy car now, you know, and they waited all these years to get it ..and elaborated on that car which they still got that blue Chevy.

DET: How about a Jeep? Have you ever seen him driving a Jeep?

WIT: No, I haven't. Huh uh.

DET: But these vehicles, you would see them parked at his trailer or you just see him driving these vehicles .....?

WIT: Mostly driving in town. Cause he was pretty much night like. He always kept hisself dressed nice. He always wore a, you know, he always had a nice pair of slacks on. His shoes were always shiny. He always ...and at the time, he always wore ah a long coat. You know, a trench coat. And ah..well he was just dressed, you know, very nicely. And he..he'd.. he elaborated on..to my sister and I how, you know, I tried to keep myself up and I, you know, I'm gonna have myself look nice. I'm not gonna do like some of these women do when they don't look..they let themselves go and you know, look shabby.

DET: Okay. Can you remember back to any other incidences that made you really suspicious of him?

WIT: I think the one that really topped it was when we see him..seen him

Page 11  
of 14

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of MELINDA MILES

loading that girl up on the freeway. And knew he was not going any..  
Knew that he lived here and why would he be going out of town.

DET: Okay. What happened from there when you left him on the freeway?

WIT: Well we went on down to California. And ah we came back and picked up  
whatever we had left here and started back to Missouri and when we start  
back to Missouri, we started saying, you know, I really have the weird  
feeling about that guy. I..I feel like..that..I still feel like there's  
something not right somewhere. And the more we thought about it and  
the farther we got back there, we both felt like he was, you know..there  
was..just something connected him with the girls I heard..and these  
disappearing of those girls. And ah..So anyhow, CURTIS woke up one night  
and he says, I just can't ...I can't throw this, he says, that guy's got  
be the one killing those girls. And I says, I been thinking about it for  
the last two weeks. And it's about two weeks after we lived back there  
that we called DWIGHT KARIN and we told DWIGHT of our suspicions. That  
we just felt like the man should checked out.

DET: Now, whose DWIGHT KARIN again?

WIT: DWIGHT KARIN was then Chief Criminal Deputy of Thurston County. And  
we knew him personally and we felt that, you know, since we did know  
him, you know, maybe DWIGHT would ah sorta check in to it and..and just  
that a..you know..not make it real public or anything but you know, keep  
an eye on the guy, check it out. Because I know when you go on feelings,  
that's all you're going on, you're not going on..you haven't got no  
evidence, you haven't got anything and it's..it's you know, it's hard  
to ask..to tell a law officer...

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

8	2	-	1	6	2	3	9	8
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☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of MELINDA MILES

DET: Sure.

WIT: ...to ah go on...

DET: Sure, we understand.

WIT: ...somebody's feelings, you know. And he said ah, alright, he'd..he'd check into it and they had ah..they'd watch him for awhile. And that's the last that we heard. We did call back again and DWIGHT told us that ah, well, there wasn't much they could do because they didn't have a sh d of evidence on the guy. So it..

DET: Okay. So basically, that's the extent of your contact with MELVIN there

WIT: Except for here about six, eight months ago. Not real sure. It seems like it was just before Christmas or right around there. I was in a grocery store and he followed me all through that grocery store. Of cou he..you know, he knew me. And I knew he was wanting to make contact to talk and I didn't want no part of him cause I just..Oh, I couldn't stand it. I just didn't, you know..I just had a terrible feeling and the gal I worked for now, was in the grocery store and I ..I just happened to see her and I run up on her and I sort of..well..you know, talk to me because this guy that's following me through the grocery store, I don't want no contact at all with.

DET: Okay. At that time, did you happen to see the vehicle that he might be in?

WIT: No, I was in Safeway and he..I don't know what happened to him. He finally disappeared out of there.

DET: During our conversation on the phone, you mentioned that he was particularl proud of his Chrysler, or his car? And that he was, he was...

Page	13
of	14

8 2 - 1 6 2 3 9 8

☐ Officer's Witness Statement

☒ Statement Continuation

DATE

TIME

Statement of MELINDA MILES

WIT: Of his parents' car.

DET: His parents' car?

WIT: His parents' car. He talked alot about his parents' having that new car. And ah, that they were something now, because they them a brand new car. They got to pay cash for it and ...you know.

DET: Did he ever talk about his feelings about some of the girls that worked on the streets and that type of thing at all?

WIT: No. The only..the only thing he talked mostly about was so many killing in Los Angeles and why..that's why he brought his wife out here. Because his wife was having a nervous breakdown over all the killings in Los Angeles. And ah...So..You know it...that's....

DET: Okay. Time's ah 2158 hrs. This has been a taped interveiw with LINDA MILES.

74-9255-6-BAKER, BRENDA - Page 1533 of 1570